



## California State Fire Marshal CODE INTERPRETATION

Date Issued	10-14-04	Interpretation #	04-017
Topic	Automatic Fire Sprinklers.		
Code Section(s)	§508 California Building Code (2001) with 11-15-02 Supplement; §504.6.1, CBC (2001)		
Requested by	Alan Chen Thomas Blurock Architects 720-C W 17 <sup>th</sup> St Costa Mesa, CA 92627		

*The following are related to the interpretation of Section 508 and the use of automatic fire sprinklers. All of the questions relate to a two story Group E, Division 1 occupancy of Type II one-hour construction having a total area over 20,000 square feet. Automatic fire sprinklers would be provided for a new campus.*

- 1. Section 508 allows for fire-resistive substitution provided that it is not required throughout by other sections of this code. Do the requirements in Section 904.2.4.1 eliminate the use of Section 508 unless either Section 904.2.4.1 Exceptions 1 or 2 are used? Or does Section 904.2.4.1.3(which allows the use of Section 508) supersede 904.2.4.1?*

Section 904.2.4.1.3 supersedes Section 904.2.4.1 because it is specific and permits the use of all applicable fire-resistive construction substitutions permitted in Section 508, even though a sprinkler system is required.

- 2. If the requirements of Section 904.2.4.1 (automatic sprinklers for Group E, Division 1) are applicable and sprinklers are provided as per Section 904.2.4.1.1 (automatic sprinklers for new campus), can Exception 2 of Section 904.2.4.1 be used to eliminate the requirements for an automatic sprinkler system to allow the use of Section 508?*

No. The construction criteria of Exception #2, Section 904.2.4.1 cannot be eliminated in lieu of automatic fire sprinklers in a new school campus.

3. *Section 504.6.1 does not allow the use of area separation walls for the purpose of automatic sprinkler requirements (as set forth in Chapter 9, unless it is of four-hour fire-resistive construction per the exception. This contradicts Section 904.2.4.1, which allows the use of a two-hour area or occupancy separation. Which type of separation is applicable in order to use Section 508?*

Section 504.6.1 does not apply to a new public school campus because automatic sprinklers are required per 904.2.4.4.1.1. Section 904.2.4.1 allows the use of two exceptions to apply Section 508 for fire resistive substitutions only.